

*"Inventors Helping Inventors"*



# THE Tampa Bay INVENTOR NEWSLETTER

*The Official Publication of the Tampa Bay Inventor's Council*

7441 114th Avenue, Suite 608 Largo Florida 33773

July 2003

The Tampa Bay Inventor's Council is here to help you succeed. Forge ahead, maintain your purpose, and achieve what you intend to. Everyone in this group is behind you.

## UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

**July 9th, 2003**

We are very lucky to have Anthony Sullivan, Founder and Creative Director of Sullivan Productions, speaking to us. Sullivan Productions produces commercials and infomercials and has won a large number of awards for their work. Their products include OxiClean, Ab Force, Pro Trim, Smart Chopper, Handy Stitch, and many others. This may be the company that puts your product on the air. You definitely don't want to miss this one.

**July 23rd, 2003**

Randy Landreneau will show you how to produce plastic prototypes in your own kitchen using simple tools. He will show you how to make flexible polyurethane or silicone molds and how to use them to make plastic parts from liquid polyurethane. He will show you how to perfectly reproduce even complex shapes using two-part injection molds. You will leave this meeting knowing not only how to do it but also what materials to use and where to purchase them.

## CALENDAR

### GENERAL MEETINGS

July 9, 2003 ..... 7:30 pm  
July 23, 2003 ..... 7:30 pm  
Aug 13, 2003 ..... 7:30 pm  
Aug 27, 2003 ..... 7:30 pm

All meetings held at:

7441 114th Avenue  
Suite 608 Largo Florida,  
33773

on

2nd & 4th

Wednesdays

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For information call:

*Seelisting of Directors*

*on page 2*

### INFORMAL

#### LUNCHEON MEETING

July 16 ..... 12:00 noon  
Aug 20 ..... 12:00 noon

#### Red Lobster

Largo Shopping Center  
Corner of Seminole &  
Ulmerton

I can just about guarantee you that reading this book will help kick you into high or higher gear.

I hope each of you is planning big things. Think big. You have the ability to do more than you ever dreamed. I'm serious. Don't stop yourself. Don't doubt yourself. Get educated where you need to be. The book Patent It Yourself by David Pressman ([www.nolo.com](http://www.nolo.com)) is a good start. *Inventor's Digest Magazine* will help. Attend TBIC meetings and get to know your fellow inventors. Above all, learn. See you at the next meeting.

Randy Landreneau, President  
Tampa Bay Inventor's Council

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## Need to Reach TBIC?

Website:

<http://www.patent-faq.com/tbichome.htm>

Copies of Newsletter to download:

<http://www.inventioneering.org>

Email:

[TBIC@patent-faq.com](mailto:TBIC@patent-faq.com)

or call Dave Kiewit, Secretary:

Phone - 727- 866-0669

Submit Articles to our Editor at:

[Chuck@inventioneering.org](mailto:Chuck@inventioneering.org)

## 2002 OFFICERS & BOARD of DIRECTORS

### President

Randy Landreneau 447-9031  
[ichoosetobe@earthlink.net](mailto:ichoosetobe@earthlink.net)

### Vice President

Chuck Van Breemen 446-8400  
[chuck@inventioneering.org](mailto:chuck@inventioneering.org)

### Secretary

David Kiewit 866-0669  
[dave@patent-faq.com](mailto:dave@patent-faq.com)

### Treasurer

Jack Goss 442-0537

### Directors

Steve Gates 418-8788

Jack Goss 442-0537

David Kiewit 866-0669

Randy Landreneau 447-9031

Russell Randall 455-6226

Norman Sayce 527-5853

Chuck Van Breemen 446-8400

Sid White 392-0194

### Editor

Chuck Van Breemen 446-4839

### Newsletter

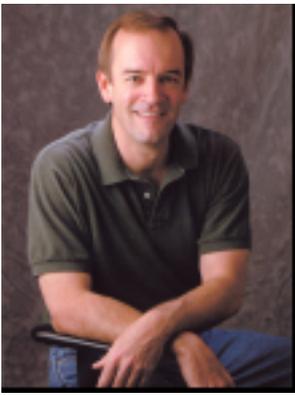
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### Founder

Ron E. Smith 507-8558

*The Tampa Bay Inventors' Council (TBIC) is a corporation as defined in Chapter 617, Florida Statutes, as not for profit. The corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, education and scientific purposes. The TBIC is a 501 (C) (3) charitable corporation which allows the receiving of tax deductible contributions of goods and services. There are over 100 active members willing to share their expertise and experiences with fellow inventors. Meetings are held at 7441 114th Avenue, Suite 608 Largo Florida, 33773 on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:30 P.M. Yearly dues are \$45 and include the Membership Directory & Resource Reference Book.*

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Since July 4th has just passed, I'm feeling extra patriotic. Have you ever considered that being an inventor is the ultimate personification of being an American? What is it that America represents to the downtrodden of the world (the sane ones, anyway)? Opportunity. In America, a person can raise himself up based on intelligence and productive work like nowhere else in the world. Why is that so? Why is America so far ahead of the rest of the world economically? Why does every valuable new technology start here? Sure, other countries can copy what we create, but it is created here. Always. Why?

It started when a few courageous men invented the first democratic republic in the world a few hundred years ago. They invented a space where men could think and breathe without being oppressed by the typical aristocracy found in the rest of the world. Sure, there were some enormous flaws, like slavery. But the original intention was pure enough that it set this country apart from the rest of the world. And, as you know, the patent system created here was not only revolutionary at the time but continues to be the best in the world for individual inventors.

So creative minds can operate freely here. So valuable products are invented. So industries develop around them. And the rest of the world plays catch-up. And various wrong-minded political efforts try to slow us down rather than trying to speed up the rest of the world by improving their patent systems and their freedoms.

Do you know where the dollar sign comes from? The initials of the United States placed over each other. The sign for the value one gets for his production is the initials US! This was the first nation ever created based on production rather than aristocracy. I learned that from a great book named Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand. I am recommending it to you because it has been a tremendous source of motivation to me. Two of the main characters are inventors.

Continued on preceding page

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF JUNE 25, 2003

**Directory Update:** A newly revised directory of TBIC members was passed out at the meeting. If you didn't get one, see Dave Kiewit at one of the next few meetings, or request one to be mailed to you.

**Business Plans:** Lisa Pluhm, an MBA student who provides business planning consulting services, spoke on this important topic. Lisa walked us through the major topics of a business plan: Executive Summary (list major measurable objectives and key features differentiating the business from others); Company Summary; Products/Services; Market Analysis; Implementation Plan; & Financials. Many, if not all, of these topics depend on some set of operating assumptions that the planner makes – change the assumptions and the plan will change. Lisa noted that all of these assumptions should be spelled out clearly and, of course, should be consistent from one section of the plan to the next.

For DIY planners who are willing to use a basic, but fairly inflexible system, she recommends business planning software from paloalto.com (about \$100). As is true with a lot of software, flexibility costs more (say, \$300 instead of \$100).

Dave Kiewit  
Secretary

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### REVISED BY-LAWS and ELECTION

The By-laws were recently revised to expand the types of memberships available. The new revised By-Laws are published in this news letter on the next four pages. It is in the center of the booklet so you can remove it and keep it for future reference.

Election of the Board of Trustees will be held at our annual business meeting on August 13, 2003. A slate of nominees will be presented by the current board after which members can be nominated from the floor. The election will be by show of hands with a simple majority needed for election.

# BY-LAWS OF TAMPA BAY INVENTORS' COUNCIL, INC.

(hereinafter "TBIC")

## 1 Membership

- 1.1 **Eligibility** — Any person who subscribes to the purposes and basic policies of TBIC may become a member. Membership in TBIC shall be available without regard to race, color, creed, or national origin.
- 1.2 **Classes of membership** — *A natural person may choose to become either a Regular Member or a Sustaining Member of TBIC. A natural person who is a full time student may become a Student Member of TBIC. A corporation or other entity may become a Corporate Member of TBIC.*
- 1.3 **Dues** — A person shall become a member of TBIC at any time upon payment of annual dues.
- 1.3.1 The annual dues will be determined from time to time by consent of the Board of Trustees, *subject to the following constraints:*
- 1.3.1.1 *Dues for Student Members shall be no more than two thirds of the annual dues for Regular Members.*
- 1.3.1.2. *Dues for Sustaining Members shall be at least twice the annual dues for Regular Members and shall not be less than \$120 per year.*
- 1.3.1.3. *Dues for Corporate Members shall be at least four times the annual dues for Regular Members and shall not be less than \$250 per year.*
- 1.3.2 A person shall cease to be a member at any time that his or her dues are three (3) months in arrears.
- 1.4 **Participation** — Only members in good standing shall be eligible to participate in a TBIC business meeting or to serve in any elective or appointive position.
- 1.5 **Disputes** — TBIC shall not become involved in a dispute between two of its members or between a member and a third party.
- 1.6 **Compensation** — A member shall not be compensated for services furnished to TBIC unless such compensation is approved by the consent of the majority of the Board of Trustees. Such consent shall not be given unless a written description of the purpose of the service and a proposed compensation is supplied to each member of the Board of Trustees prior to the onset of such services.

## 2 Meetings

- 2.1 **Regular** — TBIC shall conduct scheduled meetings at which

business may be conducted. The time and place of regular meetings may be determined from time to time by the Board of Trustees.

- 2.2 **Special** — TBIC may conduct, from time to time, special meetings, educational seminars or other activities authorized by the Board of Trustees.
- 3 **Fiscal Year** — The fiscal year of TBIC shall run from September 1 of each year to August 31 of the succeeding year.
- 4 **Board of Trustees**
- 4.1 **Duties** — The property, affairs, business and concerns of TBIC shall be managed by a Board of Trustees.
- 4.1.1 **Diligence** — Trustees shall discharge their duties in good faith and with that degree of diligence, care and skill which an ordinarily prudent person would exercise under similar circumstances.
- 4.1.2 **Reliance** — Trustees, when acting in good faith, may rely upon financial statements of TBIC represented to them as being correct by the President or other Officer(s) of TBIC having charge of the books of account, or may rely upon a written statement or report furnished by an independent public or certified public accountant or firm of such accountants as fairly representing the financial condition of TBIC.
- 4.2 **Number and voting**
- 4.2.1 **Number** — The Board of Trustees shall consist of at least five (5) *Regular or Sustaining Members*.
- 4.2.2 **Quorum** — Except as otherwise provided, a majority of the entire Board of Trustees shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting.
- 4.2.3 **Meetings** — The time and place of meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be set by the Board. A notice of each meeting shall be communicated to each Trustee at least five (5) days prior to the meeting, except that if an amendment to these By-Laws is to be considered at a meeting, notice shall be given at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting. Notice given by first class mail shall be considered to be given one (1) day after the postmark date.
- 4.2.4 **Consent** — Except as otherwise provided, the vote of a majority of the members of the Board of Trustees, if a quorum be present, shall be the act of the board. Any action required of or permitted to be taken by the Board of Trustees may be taken without a meeting if a majority of the entire Board of Trustees

consents in writing to a resolution authorizing that action.

#### 4.3 **Selection, term, removal and resignation**

- 4.3.1 **Regular election** — Trustees shall be elected for a one year term by a majority of *Regular and Sustaining* Members voting at a TBIC meeting held between June 15 and August 15 each year, and shall begin serving on the following September 1st.
- 4.3.2 **Vacancies** — A vacancy on the Board of Trustees shall be filled by a selection of a new Trustee by the a majority of the remaining members of the Board of Trustees. Anyone so selected shall serve until the expiration of the term within which his or her appointment was made.
- 4.3.3 **Re-election** – A board member may be re-elected to serve successive terms.
- 4.3.4 **Removal** — A Trustee may be removed with or without cause, at any Board meeting, by consent of a majority of all other members of the Board. A board member shall be removed from the Board if said board member is absent without excuse from three (3) successive board meetings. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no board member shall be removed if said board member's removal would cause the number of members remaining on the Board to fall below the minimum specified in Section 4.2.1 of these By-Laws.
- 4.3.5 **Resignation** — A Trustee's written resignation will be effective upon receipt by the Treasurer or President of TBIC. An orally tendered resignation will be effective immediately if offered at a meeting of the Board of Trustees or at a regularly scheduled meeting of TBIC.
- 4.3.6 **Compensation** — Trustees shall not be entitled to compensation for service on the Board. A Trustee may, however, serve TBIC in another capacity and receive compensation therefor.

### 5 **Officers and Committee Members**

#### 5.1 **Selection and removal**

- 5.1.1 Officers and committee members shall be selected by the Board of Trustees for a one year term beginning on the 1st of September and shall serve at the pleasure of the Board.
- 5.1.2 An Officer may serve successive terms.
- 5.1.3 An Officer or Committee Member may be removed at any time, with or without cause, by consent of a majority of the Board of Trustees.
- 5.1.4 Any *Regular or Sustaining* member in good standing may serve as an Officer or Committee member. An officer or committee

member may be, but need not be a Trustee.

5.2 **Officers specified** — The Officers of TBIC shall be a President, a Treasurer and such others as shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees.

5.2.1 **President** — The President shall preside at regular scheduled TBIC meetings and shall exercise that authority which is normal and customary for the chief executive officer of similar organizations.

5.2.2 **Treasurer** — The Treasurer shall maintain and disburse the funds of TBIC as may be ordered by the Board of Trustees, taking proper vouchers for such disbursements, and shall render account of all transactions and of the financial condition of TBIC to the Board at its request.

5.2.3 **Other officers and committee chairs** — Other Officers and Committee Chairs may be appointed at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees. Such positions may include:

5.2.3.1 A Vice-president who shall act in the place of the President at regularly scheduled meetings in the President.

5.2.3.2 A Secretary who shall keep minutes of regular scheduled meetings.

5.3 **Non-duplication** — No person shall simultaneously hold the offices of President and Treasurer. No Officer shall execute, acknowledge, or verify an instrument in more than one capacity.

5.4 **Compensation** — Officers and Committee Members shall serve without compensation. An Officer or Committee member may however, serve TBIC in another capacity and receive compensation therefor.

5.5 **Committees** — The Board of Trustees may appoint a committee consisting of two or more members for any purpose as deemed appropriate by the Board. A committee so appointed shall have and exercise that authority specifically delegated thereunto by the Board.

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## FOCUS GROUPS

I participated in our first focus group at TBIC. It was a lot more valuable to me than I had expected. Among other things, the participants came up with names for my product that were better than I had and that I might never have come up with on my own.

Here's how it works. Three inventors each have five minutes to show their product to an audience. Everyone there has signed a non-disclosure. The audience members answer a number of questions on a sheet of paper. The sheets are then given to the inventor.

You really need to know how others view your product. You also need practice presenting your product. It is also a lot of fun. Also, you only have to be a regular member. I encourage each of you to participate in this activity.

Written by Randy Landreneau

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## ADVICE FROM PATENT IT YOURSELF BY DAVID PRESSMAN

**Inventor's Commandment #1:** Prior to deciding how to proceed with any creation, you should learn and be familiar with the various forms of intellectual property, including utility patents, design patents, trademarks, copyright, trade secrets, and unfair competition, so that you will be able to select and employ the proper form(s) of coverage.

**Inventor's Commandment #2:** To invent successfully, be aware of problems you encounter. Also, take the time to study and investigate the practicality of new phenomena that occur by accident or flash of insight. Persevere with any development you believe has commercial potential.

**Inventor's Commandment #3:** After conceiving of an invention, you shouldn't proceed to develop, build or test it, or reveal it to outsiders, until you (1) make a clear description of your conception (using ink), (2) sign and date the same, and (3) have this document signed and dated by two trustworthy people who have "witnessed and understood" your creation. (As an alternative to documentary conception in this manner, you can use the PTO's Disclosure Document program, but be aware of the disadvantages and limitations of the DDP.)

Written by Randy Landreneau

## LETTERS

Many of us have heard of Paul Simmons and his extensive inventive career, but I thought that you may want to know a little bit more about this very important member of TBIC.

Aside from having patents on more than 40 products that span a broad range of technologies, Mr. Simmons is a nationally recognized consultant to the Pharmaceutical and Nutraceutical industry. With a background in Mechanical & Process Engineering, he has extensive experience in fields relating to the invention process. He has been licensed as a Master Electrician, Master Plumber, and Class 'A' mechanical Contractor. He holds a college level Florida State Teachers license in Mechanical engineering and has his Commercial Pilots license.

Mr. Simmons has held many offices. Has been the Former President of the National Assoc. of Power Engineers, International Assoc. of Pharmaceutical Engineers, Master Electricians Assoc., Master Plumbers Assoc., Bio-process Engineering Society, and the Refrigeration Services Engineering Society. In addition, he has also been a member of the Instrument Society of America, the American Society of Hospital Engineers, the Society of Manufacturing Engineers and The Construction Specification Institute. And if this wasn't enough, he has served on the board of directors of more than 10 companies, been the CEO of two public companies, is listed in several Who's Who publications and has received awards in many of his fields of endeavor.

Mr. Simmons is now supposedly retired, but as we know he is very diligently working to help inventors get their products to the market. And as the person writing this article, I have gotten to know him on a personal as well as professional level and I can truly say that Mr. Simmons is genuinely a very nice person. I am proud to be working with him, and knowing all that he has accomplished, I am very glad he is working for me.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Knoepp  
Promotions and Membership Director.



# Make your Inventing Process More Effective and More Fun!

A few of the benefits you will enjoy: Monthly programs, Luncheons, Free workshops, Updates on Legislation affecting the Industry, Free TBIC Membership Directory, and Current Industry News!

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**  
**TAMPA BAY INVENTORS' COUNCIL**  
Attn: Membership Director  
727-547-5450

## Membership Application

Annual dues: Regular \$ 45, Sustaining \$120,  
Corporate \$250, Student \$25

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

AREA OF INTEREST \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## **TAMPA BAY INVENTORS COUNCIL**

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**7441 114th Avenue Suite 608 Largo Florida, 33773**

*Information and articles printed in this newsletter are not necessarily endorsed by the T.B.I.C. and may not be applicable to everybody.*

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